

## Portfolios Documenting a journey



Andrea Nolan & Bronwyn Reynolds  
Available from Early Childhood Australia (2008)  
\$14.95 (inc. p&h) (paperback)  
[www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/rip0804](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/rip0804)

Portfolios are useful for documenting student learning over a period of time, and for this reason Nolan and Reynolds' (2008) *Portfolios: Documenting a journey* is particularly welcome. The authors focus on developing portfolios for children in early learning settings and construct a theoretical framework and educative practice that can be replicated throughout the child's school career.

This compact book explains the purpose, design and development of diverse types of portfolios aimed at use by both children and early childhood practitioners. The strength of the book is the core information that is central to all portfolio development.

The final section of the book, 'Early childhood practitioners using portfolios', is especially valuable. The authors emphasise that the process of developing a portfolio is as important as the product because it allows for continued self-assessment and reflection. This is a salient point. Too often we rely on our memories to provide the material for reflection. This can be a flawed process which may limit the effectiveness of using reflection to inform planning.

The pre-service teachers I work with are impressed with the information relating to developing and maintaining the professional portfolio which 'represents who you are, what you do, why you do it, where you have been, where you want to go, and how you plan to get there' (Evans, 1995, in Constantino & Lorenzo, 2002). As these students are about to apply for teaching positions, this succinct guide to preparing for interviews is highly topical. No doubt once they begin working with young children, the rest of the information on the use of portfolios in early childhood settings will be as highly regarded.

**June Slee**

School of Education  
Charles Darwin University

### Reference

Constantino, P., & Lorenzo, M. (2002). *Developing a professional teaching portfolio*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

## The wrong book



Nick Bland  
Scholastic Australia (2009)  
RRP \$26.99 (hardcover)

Beautifully illustrated and written by Nick Bland, *The wrong book* features a boy named Nicholas Ickle who desperately wants to tell the reader who this picture book is about. The story begins with Nicholas Ickle telling the reader 'My name is Nicholas Ickle and this book is about ...' Just as Nicholas is about to say who, he gets interrupted by a colourful parade of characters who want the book to be all about them. On each page there is a visual clue for the reader to guess who the next character is. To each character Nicholas Ickle says, 'Go away, you're in the wrong book!'

The parade of characters finally leave him in peace. Nicholas begins to start his speech once more 'My name is Nicholas Ickle and this book is about ...' when suddenly something falls from the sky and crashes down behind him ... You will have to read the book to find out what crashes from the sky and who the book is really about.

Great book to read aloud with lots of repetition of the phrase 'Go away, you're in the wrong book!' for children to have fun repeating out loud. The humorous illustrations are engaging. *The wrong book* will become a favourite with children, to be read again and again.

**Bernadette Franzoni**

Young Peoples Library Services Librarian  
Library Solutions